



CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH

2000 MAIN STREET

CALIFORNIA 92648

COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

(714) 536-5486

CHILDREN'S NEEDS TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, February 23, 2017 4:00 PM
Huntington Beach Civic Center
Lower Level Room B-8
2000 Main Street
Huntington Beach, CA 92648

A. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Chair Lembke called the meeting to order at 4:06 pm at which time a quorum was met.

Members Present: Erika Augenstein, Dona Cardona, Linda Cornejo, Michelle Edelson, Jim Hayden, Tiffany Johnson, Meagan Kinsey, Phyllis Lembke, Daryn Nguyen

Members Absent: Dawit Habteab (excused), Steven McCloskey (excused), Deborah Reisdorph (excused)

Council Liaisons Present:

Staff Present: Chris Slama, Charlene Gomez

B. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

C. PRESENTATIONS & INTRODUCTIONS

None.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Moved by Edelson and seconded by Hayden to approve the October 27, 2017 meeting minutes as presented.

Ayes: Cardona, Cornejo, Edelson, Hayden, Kinsey, Lembke

Abstain: Augenstein, Johnson, Nguyen

Absent: Habteab, McCloskey, Reisdorph

E. ADMINISTRATIVE

1. Gomez administered the Oath of Office to those members in attendance. Additionally, she distributed updated copies of the City's Code of Ethics policy along with acknowledgement forms for the Members' signatures.

F. FOCUS GROUP UPDATES

Focus Groups are ad-hoc committees which serve a specific purpose and are disbanded annually:

1. Gomez announced that after the appointment of the newest members to the focus groups, two groups consist of too many members and will require adjustments. The two groups affected are the Barnes & Noble Holiday Book Drive and Child Welfare. Gomez explained that for Brown Act compliance, there should be no more than five members per committee. Any more would constitute a quorum at this point of the Task Force's membership. However, all members are welcome to assist with the book sort because the dates are posted as "special meetings" in accordance to the Brown Act. Edelson, Kinsey and Augenstein volunteered to step down from the Barnes & Noble Holiday Book Drive focus group, while Johnson and Cornejo offered to step down from the Child Welfare group, allowing both focus groups to return to less than a quorum.

#1: CHILDREN RECOGNIZED & VALUED:

Lembke reported on the American Youth Character Awards, which will be held in May. She updated the mailing list provided by Gomez, and will be promoting the nominations at an upcoming Interfaith Council meeting. Nomination applications are ready to go out and members should help distribute them electronically and in person.

#2: CHILD WELFARE:

Hayden and Lembke have been reviewing the focus of the group and are leaning toward mental illness and mental health in teens. They attended the mental health forum held at St. Jude Hospital and provided background on the program. Hayden said that the forum was attended by Chief Handy and Mayor Delgleize as well. Hayden said that he and Lembke would like to invite Lynn Thies with the National Alliance of Mental Health Orange County to speak on the subject. Hayden said that they will arrange a focus group meeting on this subject. Lembke said that she and Hayden have attended these forums for years and she shared some of her experiences with teen mental illness, including information on Peer-to-Peer and other programs. Hayden and Lembke discussed the homeless situation in Huntington Beach, stating that the homeless population includes youth and teens. Discussion continued on mental illness and facilities for teens in Orange County.

#3: BARNES & NOBLE HOLIDAY BOOK DRIVE:

Johnson reported a record 3,579 books received and distributed by Task Force members to local schools and non-profit organizations through the Barnes & Noble Holiday Book Drive. She noted that there were a few new schools who applied that have not participated in the past. She was pleased to be able to provide so many books this year. A "thank you" presentation will be made to Barnes & Noble at the March 6 City Council meeting at 6:00 pm.

#4: MARKETING & FUNDRAISING:

Cornejo reported that the Facebook page is coming along. Slama said that since the last meeting, the City has instituted new policies regarding the use of social media by boards and committees. Because there are so many using social media these days, it difficult to monitor what is promoted on behalf of the City. Therefore, City administration has asked that all boards, committees and commissions direct content meant for social media to the City's Public Information Officer (PIO) for distribution. There was a short discussion about the new policy. Slama said that there are other avenues available to the boards as well, such as the City Managers Report. Any information the Task Force would like to share can be sent to Gomez, who will provide it to the PIO on their behalf.

Cornejo asked if there is still a position available on the Task Force. That was the original intent in forming the focus group in the past – to get the word out to potential members. Now it has evolved and will include fundraising in addition to bringing attention to the CNTF. Cornejo reported on events she has attended and where she has promoted the CNTF, including the Huntington Beach Coordinating Council, which she found very interesting. She volunteered for event and event at the Youth Shelter and attended the Boutonnieres and Bows dance at the City Gym & Pool. She also reported that the Youth Shelter will be having an open house and recommends that board members take a tour. Lembke said that in the past the Task Force has toured some of the facilities and programs offered to kids within the City. She suggested that Cornejo look into a "City sponsored" tour for the current CNTF members.

#5: CHARACTER EDUCATION PROGRAMS:

Cardona reported that she began reaching out to schools through email, and then moved to phone calls before scheduling and meeting with the principals who seemed supportive or interested in the Character Counts program. Cardona provided an overview on the contacts she has made and the outcome of her meetings with various school principals. Task Force members provided feedback on how to reach those who make the decision or may be able to implement the program. A discussion ensued on the Character Counts program. Cardona said that members can go to charactercounts.com to find out information on the levels of participation in the program.

G. CURRENT BUSINESS:

None

H. INFORMATION ITEMS

None.

I. TASK FORCE MEMBER COMMENTS:

Lembke stated that the next business meeting is scheduled for April 27, 2017 and strongly encourages Focus Group Leads to meet with their groups and share ideas in the off month. Lembke also said that if anyone wants to contact her, she prefers email rather than a phone call.

J. ITEMS TO BE AGENDIZED

K. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Lembke adjourned the meeting at 4:57.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the CNTF is scheduled for Thursday, April 27, 2017 at 4:00 PM and is located at the Civic Center, 2000 Main Street, Room B-8, Huntington Beach, CA 92648

Respectfully Submitted by:
Charlene Gomez, Recording Secretary